

Congressional Detail



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Subject(s): In-Band/On-Channel (IBOC) Digital Radio (MB)

Official Name: Stevens, Ted (R-AK)

Street: Chairman

Street Cont'd: Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation

Street 254 Russell Senate Office Building

Cont'd:

City: Washington, DC 20510

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Organization: Senate

Party: Republican

Groups: Senate Committee on Appropriations
Senate Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science; Appropriations Cmte

Other Officials:

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23 FEB 2006 RCJD

February 16, 2006

Kevin Washington
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Washington:

Enclosed is a letter and report that I received detailing concerns regarding digital radio broadcasting. I thought you would want to consider this letter as you review the IBOC system proposal

With best wishes,

Cordially,



TED STEVENS

MB
IBOC

369

Leonard R. Kahn, PE, FIEEE
35th Floor
767 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

VIA FACSIMILE 202 224 1259
The Honorable Ted Stevens
Senate Commerce Committee
United States Senate

Feb. 6, 2006

Dear Chairman Stevens:

The purpose of this letter is to respectfully request an invitation to the Senate Commerce Committee hearing on Digital Radio Broadcasting. I understand that you plan to hold these hearings on Tuesdays and that the first one was held on Jan. 24, 2006.

As an introduction, I am a Professional Engineer, a Patent Agent and former Adjunct Professor of Electrical Engineering. Since 1974 I have been CEO of firm that has developed broadcasting military and communications systems, including the ATT ship to shore system, the Kahn/Hazeltine AM Stereo system, GTE/Goeken Airfone airline telephone system and most recently, the only alternative IBOC system before the FCC.

For over four decades the FCC has attempted to modernize AM Radio to better serve the American Public which depends on it to provide news, entertainment, and, most importantly, to alert Americans of manmade and natural disasters. How effective AM Radio is has been demonstrated by 9/11 and, more recently, the Gulf storms of '05.

Amazingly, the FCC is seriously considering adopting a Digital System that can never work at night and, if fully implemented, will destroy AM and FM Radio and render useless AM & FM Radios, including those tiny battery AM radios that have allowed AM stations to warn people in time to save their family's lives.

The reason I contacted Senator Allen is that a very prestigious Virginia broadcaster, Mr. David Gee, who spent a large amount of money to install the IBOC system, the one that the FCC plans to award a monopoly, has such serious fatal flaws that the builders of that system admitted it was impossible to operate at all at his station.

May I share with you my views as to why our system, as proven by full time 24/7 on-the-air commercial operation and tests has proven that none of those "fatal flaws" apply to it. And it is noteworthy that we do not seek a monopoly, just a good old American open market.

First let me briefly describe one of the "fatal flaws" that was accepted by the former Commission: It violates the basic tenet of broadcasting, compatibility with existing radios, rendering these some Billion radios that Americans use in every room in their homes, in their cars, etc. useless.

Why doesn't it work at night? Because its huge bandwidth not only interferes with stations near its assigned frequency, but AM skywaves cannot support such a large bandwidth signal.

Why don't broadcasters use their influence to fight this System? Because all of the big broadcasters have equity interest in the System and expect to get a piece of the Trillion Dollar "pot of gold."

Where does the international cartel that shares equity in this FCC favored System expect to get the Trillion Dollars? From Americans who are going to have to replace their Billion radios. This may be the largest monopoly grant by any government in the History of the World.

Where is there proof of the above stated opinions? On the FCC's website... Latest FCC Docket 99-325 entries include far more comments opposing the FCC System than favoring it. See actual on-the-air measurements by engineers with the courage to oppose the powerful radio groups that control their industry. Also, a detailed Canadian report of severe interference deep into Canada in violation of a treaty with the U.S. Also please see wrathofkahn.org.

Mr. Gee and his engineering staff have purchased Kahn Communications' Cam-D™ System (stands for Compatible AM Digital System) for installation in his nearby Richmond station, WXGI AM 950 kHz, for delivery in March and it will be available for demonstration to your staff, and the FCC, day and night, and demonstrate to that it reduces interference, not increase it. Accordingly, Mr. Gee asked me to send a copy of this letter to Senator Allen.

In view of the grave danger this situation presents to our Nation, I most respectfully request your consideration of my request to participate in your Digital Radio Hearings.

Respectfully yours,



Leonard R. Kahn, PE, FIEEE

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cc: The Honorable George Allen